

24th MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Conference - 2015 artists' bios

CATHERINE AUSTEN (author) writes for children and youth of all ages. Her middle-grade comedy, *26 Tips for Surviving Grade 6*, Lorimer Publishers, won the 2012-13 Hackmatack Children's Choice Award and the 2012 Quebec Writers Federation Prize, and was followed this year by the companion novel, *28 Tricks for a Fearless Grade 6*. *All Good Children*, Orca Publishers, was the 2012 winner of the Canadian Library Association's YA Book Award and the Sunburst YA Award, and was nominated for the American YALSA award. Catherine lives in Gatineau, Quebec. www.catherineausten.com

KATE INGLIS (author) lives along the coast of Nova Scotia, where she works as a writer, photographer and workshop presenter. Her first novel *The Dread Crew: Pirates of the Backwood*, Nimbus Publishers, 2009 was nominated for a Hackmatack Award in Nova Scotia and a Red Cedar Award in British Columbia. Her latest book *Flight of the Griffons*, Nimbus Publishers, 2014, is an environmental revenge fantasy adventure and the sequel to *The Dread Crew*. Her third book-*If I Were A Zombie*, a book of monster poetry for four to eight year-olds, is slated for a fall 2015 release. www.kateinglis.com

MONIQUE POLAK (author) has written 17 novels for young adults. She received the Québec Writers' Federation prize for Children's and YA Literature for *Hate Mail*, 2014 and *What World is Left*, 2009 - both with Orca Publishers. *All In* was nominated for an Arthur Ellis crime-writing award. *Flip Turn*, *On the Game*, *All In*, *Finding Elmo* and *Scarred* were selected by the Canadian Children's Book Centre for its Our Choice lists. Monique is a frequent contributor to the Montreal Gazette and to Postmedia publications, and a books columnist for ICI Radio-Canada. She teaches English and Humanities at Marianopolis College in Montreal. www.moniquepolak.com

RINA SINGH (author) is a critically acclaimed author and illustrator of books for children, whose books have been translated into five languages. Her recent publications, as author, are *Guru Nanak: The First Sikh Guru*, Groundwood Books, 2011 and *Nearly Nonsense* Tundra Books, 2011. As illustrator, she collaborated, with Indian lyricist Gulzar for *Hindi for Heart* HarperCollins Publishers, India, 2014. Rina was a Writer in Residence for WIER (writers in electronic media, York University) and a cultural consultant for Chickadee. She teaches writing, drama and art to teenagers in Toronto and conducts professional development workshops for teachers on teaching art and writing. www.rinasingh.com

TIM WYNNE-JONES (author) has written 33 books and has been translated into 12 languages. His publications include nine adult novels, twelve YA books and 18 picture books. He has won the Governor General's Award twice and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award twice, most recently for his young adult thriller, *Blink & Caution*, Candlewick Press, 2011. He has twice won the Arthur Ellis Award for crime writing and the Edgar Award for mystery writing. Tim has written many songs, including sixteen for the CBC - Jim Henson co-production, *Fraggle Rock*. In 2012, Tim was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and was Canada's nomination for the international Hans Christian Anderson Award for his lasting contribution to children's literature. www.timwynne-jones.com

GENEVIÈVE DESPRÉS (illustrator) has illustrated 22 children's books with publishing houses in French and English Canada. Her latest books include *Les vacances de Monsieur Lapin* (with Pascal Héroult), Éditions Les 400 Coup, 2014; *The Highest Number in the World* (with Roy MacGregor), Tundra Books, 2014; and *Best Friend Trouble* (with Frances Itani), Orca Books, 2014. *Le Petit chevalier qui n'aimait pas la pluie* (with Gilles Tibo) won the 2013 Prix Québec /Wallonie-Bruxelles de littérature de jeunesse and was a finalist for several Canadian book illustration awards including the Ontario Library Association's Tamarac Award. Geneviève lives in Montréal. www.geneviedespres.ca

MATT JAMES (illustrator) won the 2013 Governor General's Award for children's book illustrations for *Northwest Passage*, Groundwood Books, which brings to life the lyrics of Stan Rogers' iconic song. His most recent book, *The Pirate's Bed* (with Nicola Winstanley) will be released by Tundra Books in March, 2015. *Yellow Moon*, *Apple Moon* (with Pamela Porter) and *I Know Here* (with Laura Croza) were Governor General's Award finalists for book illustration in 2008 and 2010 respectively. His other illustration awards include: New Mexico Book Award, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award and Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award. Matt lives and works in Toronto as a painter, illustrator and musician. www.mattjamesillustration.ca

SYDNEY SMITH (illustrator) has illustrated seven children's books, the most recent being *Music is for Everyone* by Jill Barber, Nimbus Publishing, 2014. He won the Mayor's Award for Illustration in 2010 for *Mabel Murple*, by Sheree Fitch. In 2011 he was given the Lillian Shepard Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration for *There Were Monkeys in My Kitchen* (Sheree Fitch). He was nominated for the same award in 2012 for *Toes in my Nose* (Sheree Fitch). Born and raised in Nova Scotia, Sydney graduated from NSCAD where he later taught classes in children's illustration. He currently lives in Toronto.

